



King County

Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board

Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board

**Department of
Community and Human Services**

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Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB)

Meeting Summary

July 16, 2009 2-4 p.m.

Beacon Hill Library

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair William Wood at 2:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Kathy Lewis, Francisco Ivarra, Vice-Chair William Wood, Oren Hadaller, Roger Welles, Gary Kingsbury

County Staff Present: Linda Peterson, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), Deborah Gay, (DCHS), George Dignan, (DCHS), Marcy Kubbs, (DCHS), Sonia Singh, (DCHS), Dorothy Teeter, Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC), Rachel Quinn (PHSKC)

Guests: Jim Benbow, Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Review of Meeting Summary

The draft May meeting summary was reviewed.

ACTION: The May meeting summary was approved as written.

Procurement Plan 5.8

An Overview of Procurement Plan 5.8 and a PowerPoint (PP) presentation were provided by Dorothy Teeter from Public Health – Seattle and King County. Highlights included:

- Levy funds would pay for a portion of the planning activities for the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) for King County. HIE is an electronic system for exchanging personal level health information between healthcare organizations and patients for health care management, treatment, and data collection purposes. These electronic systems have been developed in other locales nationally.
- The health information exchange would benefit all safety net populations, those interacting with the health system, and healthcare organizations. Dorothy Teeter

indicated those who will benefit are the populations identified in the Service Improvement Plan including low income, homeless or at risk veterans and nonveteran adults, children and families including those interacting with behavioral and mental health, and jail services. From the perspective of health care organizations, the benefits include better coordinated healthcare and subsequent reduction in operating costs. The idea of developing an HEI grew out of discussions via the United Way of King County Health Impact Council. In October 2007, the council sponsored a “Shared Information” forum; in the late summer of 2008 a “key leadership” group reconvened, and began to call the work the “Partnership for Health Improvement Through Shared Information” or PHISI. Thus far, in-kind donations are being used to support PHISI.

- The funding request is for \$480,000 of Levy funds of which \$140,000 would be applied towards accelerating Phase I activities and the remaining \$340,000 towards Phase II activities. Part of the vision includes establishing a third party/neutral non-profit to keep the Governing Board apprised of project status and development. Phase I activities include further developing/establishing legal and governance structures, continuing to identify and convene stakeholders, developing a vision, business and financial plan, business requirements, identifying potential funding sources (i.e. private sector partners, federal stimulus dollars, grants).
- Specifically, Levy dollars in Phase I would be applied 1) “to staff and support a Governing Board and two subgroups – a IT- Technical Group and a Client/Service provider user group”; 2) to “sub-contract with a IT/Health systems business consultant to develop project charter, procurement strategy and business and high level functional requirements.” Procurement strategy; and 3) to subcontract with a Quality Assurance consultant to act as third party (potentially a non-profit). Phase II funding requests are to implement the activities and strategies defined in the product provided by the business consultant hired in Phase I.
- HIPAA policies apply to HEI and initial PHISI subcommittees have formed, including a HIPAA Standards Committee consisting of legal and professional staff to develop and monitor healthcare patient confidentiality, release of information, security standards, protocols, privacy laws and policies.

The VCLOB members had a number of questions regarding the plan. These included the following:

Q. Will there be outreach to smaller agencies and clinics across the county? Who are the stakeholders currently coming to planning meetings? Is the VA hospital participating in the planning stage of this project?

A. PHISI hopes to reach out to additional partners as the project develops, particularly during Phase I planning. Dorothy acknowledged the value of reaching out to all areas within the county to include smaller organizations and seek local city funding. Funding strategies will be part of the development process identified for Phase I along with development of a business plan. In the meantime, the project is funded primarily with in-kind staff time.

A. The VA has been invited and is participating in PHISI. According to Jim Benbow with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the VA is eager to be participating in this project.

Procurement Plan 2.8(b)

An Overview of Procurement Plan 2.8(b) and was provided by George Dignan of the King County Work Training program. Highlights of the overview included:

- This plan is part of the Levy activity designed to “link educational, vocational and employment opportunities to housing and supportive services” under Levy Strategy 2, Ending Homelessness.
- In January of 2008, a procurement plan for Activity 2.8 was initially reviewed by the Veterans and Human Services Levy Boards. At that time, a proposal was made to set aside \$700,000 for use for interventions that align with the goals of the Workforce Education Collaborative and the SkillUp Washington initiative. SkillUp Washington aims to assist low income workers in obtaining post-secondary credentials in order to develop a career pathway that allows greater earning potential and economic self sufficiency. This procurement plan was developed in response, using the \$700,000 for “Project Self-Sufficiency for Families”. It will integrate intensive employment case management services with Rapid Re-Housing service for homeless or formerly homeless families to shift their work earnings to a level where they can afford permanent housing.
- King County Work Training Program and project case managers will coordinate with a variety of partners including Housing and Community Development (HUD) contractors, Solid Ground, and Family Services, for Rapid-Re-Housing. Memorandums of Agreement will spell out specific roles and responsibilities of each partner organization. Sources for supportive services will include the SkillUP Washington attainment fund and others. King County WorkSource retains clients for one year following job placement to assure that earnings are sufficient for families to afford permanent housing. The Workforce Education Collaborative has established a program for working adults and funded five pilot projects at community and technical colleges, beginning in fall 2009. The pilots compress coursework and make it easier for working adults to obtain educational credentials in one year.
- Levy funds would support 3 King County Work Training case managers. Each case manager will serve 25 homeless clients at any given time with 100 clients served over the life of the project. The project is designed to provide customized services to meet individual client needs and goals and flexibility to adapt to the changing needs of clients over time, as they progress on their career plan and address barriers. Forty slots are allocated for homeless families that are assessed as being “low need” (i.e., those families that can immediately be moved into housing for 12-18 months, and are ready to participate in intensive employment and training services). Twenty slots are allocated for “high need” homeless families (i.e. barriers may include substance abuse issues, and other factors that must be addressed in addition to receiving housing, employment and training services). Section 8 housing vouchers allow for 24 months of housing assistance. Lastly, an additional 40 single homeless persons will receive combined intensive housing and employment case management services. Twenty slots will be

reserved for veterans falling into “high or low need” assessments. Barriers and services specific to veterans will be incorporated as a part of wrap around support services.

The VCLOB members had a number of questions regarding the plan. These included:

Q. How many hours of contact time with a “low need” family do you need to get them on a track towards self-sufficiency? Is the focus of the program to get people a job or to get them on track towards a career where they can truly transition into greater economic stability? Is there flexibility within the program policy to assist individuals and families on the verge of homelessness?

A. Case managers will visit project participants where they live. Part of the reason for joining housing, training and employment services into one program is to provide the greatest support to move people towards self-sufficiency and giving them time (12-18 months at minimum) to pursue secondary education or other career opportunities. Support will be provided to address a variety of barriers of self sufficiency, economic and housing stability such as substance abuse issues.

A. Other programs like the Housing Stability Program assist clients to prevent homelessness.

Committee Reports:

- Strategy 1 Committee did not meet.
- The Communications Committee did not meet this past month.

Chair’s Report:

- None

King County Staff Report:

Marcy Kubbs presented the following information:

- The 1st Quarter Levy report and the 2008 Levy Annual Report were sent to King County Council on June 1st. The final report will go to the printers soon.
- A press release from King County Patterson’s office regarding early renewal of the Levy was handed out to the Board for their information.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Petitions/Communications (public comment):

- None

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 3:35pm.